

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 remain in the application, the claims having been editorially amended.

Reconsideration of the Office action and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to address the editorial issues raised by the examiner in paragraphs 2-4 of the Office action.

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a deployment mechanism utilizing a Carpentier leaf spring. The leaf spring generates a continuous driving torque moving the panel toward the unstacking position. In the unstacking configuration, the spring mechanically retains the panels. Finally, the last paragraph of claim 1 requires that the spring joint extends under the panels it connects to form the support structure thereof. This is shown in Fig. 1 and described at lines 17-22 of page 6 of the specification, where the Carpentier leaf springs are not only located at the joints 11, 11' but extend under the panels to provide an additional function of supporting the thin film substrate of the panels.

Duperray does not describe the use of a Carpentier leaf springs other than in the Background discussion. Assuming the structure of the deployment springs is a Carpentier leaf spring, it is clear that there is no teaching or suggestion in Duperray of the last element of claim 1. Note that the drawings explicitly show that the leaf springs do NOT extend under the panels as required in claim 1.

Flament is entirely silent as to this feature, not even showing the leaf springs but simply mentioning them as a possibility.

Since neither of the cited references shows a leaf spring extending under the panels to provide support structure therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 and all of its dependent claims patentably distinguish over the cited art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/DJCushing/
David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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